The Wobbly Oscillator

Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society

August 2020 Volume 50 Number 8

August Meeting at Harriet Keeler Picnic Area

From The Prez

August Meeting at the Harriet Keeler Picnic Area

We will hold our second in person meeting since the coronavirus hit Tuesday, August 11th, at our usual time of 7:30 PM, at the Harriet Keeler Picnic Area. Since the pavilion will still be closed we will assemble directly west of the shelter where we did in July. We can't say for sure if the dancing girls will show up again, but there's always the possibility.

Bringing a lawn chair would again be advisable for the sake of comfort and safety. Last month we were able to spread out enough to keep a safe distance yet still hear everyone. We had a good group, but not the normal amount we usually have at meetings. Let's see if we can have an increase in attendance for the August meeting.

Members Helping Members

Again this month, another member, Bob, W8GC, sent in a story and pictures of an antenna project that was completed with the help of CARS members and friends. Please read his well-written story down the page and enjoy the great pictures he took during the project.

An antenna was removed from the QTH of Mike, KD8AK, by Terry, KB8DTC, and Toby, WT8O. The need for help was requested in last month's *WO,* and Terry volunteered the next day after publication. The Mosley tribander and mast were removed within a couple of days - just in time before Mike's home was going up for sale.

Terry, KB8DTC, shows his respect during the Pledge of Allegiance.

I would not have had the success from my home station during Field Day without the help I received from Ron, K8RJH, setting up my end fed antenna. Ron patiently spent quite a bit of time on the phone coaching me and emailed several pieces of valuable information. Ron's impressive storehouse of knowledge helped me make my antenna work well for the contest. Before his assistance it performed poorly at best.

All these examples and many more, provide an avenue for assistance to club members who need help with their stations. We have a Technical Committee that continuously offers members help with any problems they encounter. Scott, AC8NW, our Tech Committee chairman, mentions this frequently and wonders why he receives hardly any requests. All too often we hear stations checking into our weekly net with weak or poor signals. Many times the Net Control Station will comment on the signal quality. Unfortunately, the same stations come in the same way week after week. There may be something simple and/or inexpensive that could make a noticeable improvement. Let Scott know. I'd bet any money he or one of his boys could help. Before Field Day when the need for home stations arose, some members commented their HF stations were not operational; they had the equipment but it wasn't hooked up. A little help from your friends at CARS could possibly get you on the air.

WE ARE HERE TO HELP.

73, Toby, WT8O

Welcome New Member

Matt Perlman, KE8OZU

Mike, KB8RKF; Ron, K8RJH, and Bob, K8RGI, space out to begin the meeting.

Minutes of the July 14, 2020
CUYAHOGA AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

Because of the coronavirus, the Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society held its July, 2020 meeting in the Brecksville Reservation of the Metroparks. We were not allowed in the pavilion, so we held the meeting on a picnic table near-by.

CALLED TO ORDER---The meeting was called to order by President Toby Kolman, WT8O, at 7:30 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALEGENCE---Those present pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

JUNE MINUTES---The June minutes were approved as published in the *Wobbly Oscillator*.

TREASURERS REPORT---Our acting treasurer reported that there were no new outstanding debts in the past thirty days.

CLUB PHOTOGRAPHER---Toby, WT8O reported that we need a club photographer.

Next CARS Meeting

Tuesday, August 11

7:30 PM

Harriet Keeler Picnic Area

Brecksville Reservation

NEW MEMBERS---At last month meeting (June 9th) we accepted two new members into the club. They were however, not voted in until tonight's meeting. The vote to accept them into The Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society was unanimous for both new members. The new members are:

Kathleen M. Stoffer, KE8OMF
Anthony J. Kuches, KE8OMG.

Vice-President Mark Moro, WJ8WM, reported that that there is a fuel additive available, at a reasonable price, that will improve the performance of small gasoline engines.

VE EXAMS---Metro, W8MET, reported that at our last VE exam eighteen people took the test. It resulted in nine Technicians and five Generals.

NEXT MEETING---Our next meeting will be on August 11th in the Brecksville reservation of the Metroparks. In the event of rain, we will stay in our cars and communicate on 146.520 MHz simplex.

50/50 DRAWING---The 50/50 drawing was won by Metro, W8MET. The amount was $18.

ADJOURNED---The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 P.M.

Ed Stevens, WB8ROK, Secretary

Mike, KB8RKF, brought the CARS display board he made to the park as an effort to inform any curious onlookers as what we do.

August Birthdays

Mark Haas, KE8MJH	8/65
Dave Runion, KE8NJV	8/4/51
Mark Swanson, KE8OKN	8/6/56
Eddie Stevens, KD8FTS	8/14
Ron Hollas, K8RJH	8/16/55
Steve Koscick, KE8MAG	8/16
Tom Wayne, WB8N	8/17
Mark Rosewicz, KC8ESG	8/19
Erin Austin, KD8SLV	8/22
Gene Stepanik, KE8GUZ	8/22
Gerald Purcell, KC8LAU	8/24/61

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June VE Session

The CARS June VE session had to be relocated from our normal Independence location to the Masonic Temple in Westlake since the Old Elmwood Recreation Center was closed due to the coronavirus. With so many other local VE sessions cancelled or postponed, the CARS team hosted its most productive VE session in recent history.

Eleven individuals passed their Technician exams and became licensed amateurs. They were: David Allen, KE8OZI; Tim Garrity, KE8OZJ; Jeremy Greathouse, KE8OZK; Michael Hausnecht, KE8OZL; Earl Jolley, KE8OZM; Maxim Katila, KE8OZN; Sean Nichols, KE8OZO; Tony Vangelos, KE8OZP; Charles Wuest, KE8OZQ; William Carter, KE8OZR, and Kevin Miller, KZ8OZS. William and Kevin also passed their General exams. We congratulate all the new hams and welcome them to The Amateur Radio Service.

Three hams upgraded to General at the session; Hugh Fisher, KC8SRA; Pam Miller, KC0DSR, and Anthony Vangelos, KE8MQV.

Special thanks to our outstanding VE team, capably led by Metro, W8MET, and consisting of Roger, N8TCP; George, K8KR; and Kirk, W0KM.

The next VE testing session will be held Sunday, September 13th; the location is still to be determined. Visit the CARS website, www.@cars.org , for updates, or contact Metro, W8MET, at 216-520-1320 or metro351@sbcglobal.net . As always, walk-ins are welcome.

August Net Sked

Aug 5 N8OWS
Aug 12 KD8OUE
Aug 19 AC8NW
Aug 26 KD8ACO

Nets are run every Wednesday at 9:00 PM on 146.820 (PL 110.9)

CARS Repeaters

146.820 (-) PL Tone 110.9

Main Site – Brecksville

Receive Only Site – Brunswick

Receive Only Site – Shaker Hts.

Allstar Node 47067

EchoLink Node 343470 (K8ZFR-R)

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443.825 (+) PL Tone 131.8

Digital Yaesu Fusion

Linked to 146.82 Repeater

Brecksville

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444.75 (+) Receive PL Tone 131.8

449.75 Transmit

Stand-alone Not Linked

Shaker Hts.

Left, photo 1- Setting up the lift Saturday morning.

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Right, Photo 2 - Corey and Metro removing the beam.

Antenna Repair
Bob, W8GC

This all started when I noticed my SteppIR Monster antenna was moving around more than it should. Thinking it may be a broken stop bolt keeping the antenna in place at the rotor or mast (several breaks over the years) I asked Cory to stop over and climb the tower to check the antenna on 5/19/2020, however after checking, it was clear I had a bigger problem.

I rented a 50' lift (see photo 1) to do the work from Sunbelt Rentals 150th and Brookpark Rd., Cory picked it up and was at my house about 8:20 AM, Steve, Metro, and Bob arrived by 8:30 AM and we started working Saturday June 13th at 8:30 AM. However we were not able to finish Saturday and quit work about 3:45 PM. I had a great group of helpers, Metro, W8MET, Steve, N8IS, (who lives in Polk, OH), Bob, K8RGI, and a good friend Cory (not a ham lives-in Salem, OH). Cory and Metro did the tower work and Steve was in the bucket of the lift, Bob I were the ground crew.

Photo 3 - Antenna on the ground.

The antenna is large and heavy. It has three 72 foot long elements, one 36 foot long element and a 34 foot boom weighing 165 lbs. You can see in the photo that the 11 foot long mast 2 ½" OD 3/8" wall was compromised and needed to be replaced ASAP. The ½" aluminum mounting plate was damaged. The stainless steel U-bolts were bent and the nuts could not be removed, so it was necessary to cut them off with a reciprocating saw that took five blades and a lot of work. Of course the control cable, coax and three bars on tower to keep wires from tangling had to be removed before the antenna could be lowered. We used two 8 foot long 2"x4"s attached to the lift bucket to both lower and raise the antenna.

Photo 4 - Damaged mast.

Photo 5 - Damaged Mounting plate.

Photo 6 - Steve, NI8S, installs the new mounting plate he fabricated.

When we finally got the antenna on the ground we could see the extensive damage to the mast and mounting plate (see photos 4 & 5). It was necessary to make a new mast plate. Steve, N8IS, has a plasma cutter and offered to make a new mounting plate out of 1/4" steel Saturday evening so we could get the antenna back up Sunday morning. I had a replacement 11 foot long 2" OD 3/8" wall aluminum mast, new 2" U-bolts and a new 2" thrust bearing, so we were able to replace everything Sunday morning and put the antenna back up (see photo 7).

We had to re-install the SteppIR control cable, three bars on tower, and coax to the antenna, plus drill new holes for the rotor and mast bolts. After checking we found the Yaesu G-2800DXA rotor is getting very noisy and has a lot of slop (it is16 years old). My guess the break is broken and the 64 ball bearings need to be cleaned and greased. I was able to just purchase a new rotor motor only from DX Engineering without the control box for $764.00 that will be replaced by Cory and Metro climbing the tower when the weather is good and we find the time.

This is a short report on what was a lot of hard work, 7 ½ hours Saturday and 6 hours Sunday but we got it done, and all is working OK. I am very thankful for my great crew and their never say quit attitude.

While I had the lift Cory trimmed several branches growing into the path of the antenna when rotated (see photo 8 of trimmed tree).

One of my employees, Dale Rose returned the lift Monday morning.

73, Bob, W8GC

Left, photo 7 – Putting the antenna up Sunday morning.

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Right, photo 8 –Tree after being trimmed for antenna clearance.

Radiosport

Contests

Aug. 1, 1200 – Aug. 1, 2359 **European HF Championship** 1.8-28 CW Ph lea.hamradio.si/~scc/euhf
Exchange: RS(T), 2-digit year first licensed

Aug. 29, 1400 - Aug. 29, 2200 **Kentucky State Parks on the Air** 3.5-28 CW Ph Dig k4msu.com/kypota
Exchange: KY park abbreviation or SPC

Special Events Stations

Aug. 1 – Aug. 9, 0000-2359 **W8AL** Canton, OH **Pro Football Hall of Fame Enshrinement Festival**
14.300 14.030 7.250 7.030 3.950 3.530 FT8 Certificate & QSL www.w8al.org

Aug. 11 – Aug. 15, 0000-0000 **N7C** Window Rock, AZ **Navajo Code Talkers Special Event**
18.133 14.265 7.265 Certificate & QSL www.qrz.com/db/n7c

QSO Parties

Aug. 1, 1800 – Aug. 2, 0559 **North American QSO Party, CW** 1.8-28 CW www.ncjweb.com
Exchange: Name, state/DC/province/country

Aug. 8, 1400 – Aug, 9, 0400 **Maryland-DC QSO Party** 1.8-144, 432 CW Ph Dig w3vpr.org/mdcqsop
Exchange: Entry class, county or SPC (State, Province, DXCC Entity)

Aug. 15, 1800 – Aug. 16, 0559 **North American QSO Party, SSB** 1.8-28 Ph www.ncjweb.com
Exchange: Name, state/DC/province/country

Aug. 22, 0400 – Aug. 24, 0400 **Hawaii QSO Party** 1.8-28 CW Ph Dig www.hawaiiqsoparty.org
Exchange: RS(T) + HI district or SPC

Aug. 22, 1600 – Aug. 23, 0400 **Ohio QSO Party** 3.5-28 CW Ph www.ohqp.org/indwx.php.rules
Exchange: RS(T), county or SPC

Aug. 29, 1200 – Aug. 30, 0300 **W/VE Islands QSO Party** 1.8-50 CW Ph Dig usislands.org/qso-party-rules
Exchange: RS(T), USI/CISA island designation or SPC

Aug. 29, 1400 – Aug. 30, 2000 **Kansas QSO Party** 3.5 - 50 CW Ph Dig
Exchange: RS(T), county or SPC ksqsoparty.org/rules/KSQPRules2019.pdf

Sampling from August, 2020 *QST* - Pg. 69, 80 and 81. See *QST* for many more events.

All times in GMT ZULU time

CARS 2020 Officers & Committees

Audit
WJ8WM ** WT8O, KD8OUE

Audio/Video
AC8NW **

ARRL Liaison
WJ8WM **

Awards
W8GC ** WT8O

Christmas party & Summer Picnic
WJ8WM **, K8ARP

Club Photographer
N8OWS **

Field Day
WT8O **, WJ8WM, K8RGI, K8ARP, KD8SCV, AC8NW, AC8TN, K8RJH, N8BBB food

50/50
KD8SCV

Hamvention Bus
KD8FTS **

License classes
KD8ACO **, WT8O, K8SHB

Media Representative
KD8SCV

Membership
WT8O ** W8GC

NET
WT8O **

Newsletter
WT8O ** 440-525-6109
wt8o@att.net

Programs at Meetings
KD8QBB ** KD8BAL

Property Custodian's
KB8DTC records, W8GC equipment

Public Services
K8ARP ** KD8FTS

QSL Manager - W8HBI, W8BM
WB8N **

Refreshments at Meetings & Picnic
K8RJH ** pop, ?? ** coffee,
NW8X ** Donuts

Scholarship
W8GC ** WJ8WM, KD8SCV, WB8ROK, WT8O

Sunshine (welfare)
Andy, KD8SCV ** 440-886-0723

Technical
AC8NW ** N8OVW, WJ8WM, KD8ACO, K8RJH, K8MD, KB8DTC

VE Exams
Metro, W8MET ** 216-520-1320

Web Master/e-mail
W8GC **
** chairman or co-chairman

2020 Officers

PRESIDENT
Toby Kolman WT8O 440-525-6109
wt8o@att.net

VICE-PRESIDENT
Mark Moro, WJ8WM 216-661-0342

SECRETARY
Ed Stevens, WB8ROK 216-267-5473
Alternate Secretary:

TREASURER:
Bob Check W8GC 216-524-1750
Alternate Treasurer: Bob Robbins, K8RGI

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Board Chairman
Andy Evridge KD8SCV 440-886-0723
Alternate Chairman: Mike Kemmett, KD8OUE

even year executive board 2 year term
K8SHB, KB8DTC, KD8OUE

odd year executive board 2 year term
KD8SCV, K8ARP, K8RJH

License trustee
K8ZFR
WT8O

License trustee
W8HBI, W8BM,
W8GC

June 30, 2020